

### **Remarks**

Entrance of this amendment and allowance of all remaining claims are respectfully requested. Upon entrance of this amendment, claims 1, 5-13, 15-22, 25, 26, 30-38, 49, 53, 57-74 & 77 will remain pending.

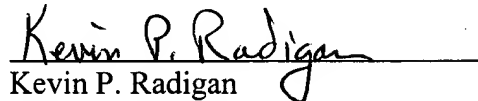
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowance of claim 49, and the indication of allowability of claims 4, 29 & 56 if rewritten into independent form including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the amendments submitted herewith, the subject matter of allowable dependent claims 4, 29 & 56 is rewritten into the respective independent claims 1, 26 & 53. Additionally, the subject matter of these dependent claims is also rewritten into independent claims 15 & 67. Based upon these amendments, all remaining independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. These amendments are submitted without acquiescing to the substance of the rejections stated in the Office Action, and are believed to render the rejection moot. In view of the amendments to the claims submitted herewith, claims 3, 4, 24, 28, 29, 40-47, 50-52, 55, 56 & 76 are canceled without prejudice. These claims are well covered by the subject matter of their respective independent claims.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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